



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
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April 3, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

City of Columbus – Franklin County

Sanitary and Storm Sewer Improvements-Scioto Peninsula Area

Loan number: CS390274-0326

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater collection system project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Sanitary and Storm Sewer Improvements-Scioto Peninsula Area

Applicant: Tracie Davies
City of Columbus Department of Utilities
910 Dublin Road
Columbus, Ohio 43215



Figure 1. Franklin County

Loan Number: CS390274-0326

Project Summary

The City of Columbus in Franklin County (Figure 1) applied for a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) loan in the amount of \$4,599,707 for the construction of new storm and sanitary sewers on Belle, Starling, and Town streets within the area known as the Scioto Peninsula.

History & Existing Conditions

The Scioto Peninsula is one of the oldest urbanized areas within the City and is serviced by storm and combined sewer infrastructure that dates back to the late 1800's. The project area utilizes two main storm system outfalls to the Scioto River. Located northeast of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum is a privately owned 36-inch diameter storm sewer which drains approximately 17.5 acres north of Broad Street and east of the railroad, predominately serving the existing building and the adjacent parking lot to the west. Stormwater runoff from the remainder of the planning area (approximately 40.2 acres) is collected in various minor sewers which discharge to a city-owned 36-inch diameter combined storm sewer at Town Street, which then flows westward and outside of the current planning area to a 48-inch diameter combined storm sewer along McDowell Street that eventually outlets to the Dodge Park combined sewer pump station. The pump station discharges through a force main to the Olentangy-Scioto Interceptor Sewer (OSIS), a large combined trunk sewer (Figure 2).

The Center of Science and Industry (COSI) and the area south of State Street are served by the 18-inch sanitary sewer north of Town Street. This sewer is a tributary to the Scioto Main Replacement sewer via the West Side Sanitary Sewer. The 36-inch combined sewer on Town Street collects the majority of storm runoff on the site, but also has one sanitary connection serving 90 West Town Street. The combined sewer is a tributary to the Olentangy-Scioto Interceptor Sewer via the Dodge Park Pump Station.

Project Description

The project will replace aging sanitary sewers and separate some sanitary sewers from storm sewers in a very old section of town previously ignored due to recurrent river flooding, which will increase services and prepare the area for redevelopment. The project area is a large portion of the Scioto Peninsula planning area and is bound by Broad Street on the north, Belle Street on the

east, Town/Rich Street on the south, and Starling Street on the west. There is also a sewer extension on Town Street that extends west to Gift Street that was added to the project. This sewer extension extends into the East Franklinton planning area (Figure 3).

There will be 2,635 linear feet of new sanitary sewer. The existing 10-inch sewer on Belle Street between State Street and Town Street will be replaced with a 12-inch pipe to satisfy the design capacity requirements. There will be a new 18-inch sewer installed in the right-of-way on Town and Starling streets. In addition, there will be a new 12-inch sanitary sewer to replace an 8-inch sanitary sewer on Town Street. All sanitary laterals connected to the 36-inch combined sewer in Town Street will be abandoned and capped. The 36-inch combined sewer will then become a dedicated storm sewer can be redirected into a storm water system in the future.

The proposed work will take place in previously disturbed, public rights-of- way.

Implementation

The City of Columbus requested \$4,599,707 from the WPCLF program for the project. The median household income (MHI) for Columbus is \$47,156. The cost of this project will be covered by user rates. The current average annual residential user rate is \$1,015. That rate will increase to \$1,281 in 2021. The new sewer rate will be 2.7% of the MHI, which is considered affordable.

Columbus will save \$680,222 by using the WPCLF standard loan rate of 0.92% as compared to a market rate of 2.23% for 20 years.

Work will commence as soon as possible and the new infrastructure will be in operation by June 2021.

Public Participation

The project is listed on the City's website. Impacts to the area as a result of construction will be communicated to area residents and businesses via the Paving the Way website. Adjacent facilities will also be notified directly by the construction team.

Articles have appeared in the Columbus Dispatch and Business First as projects (Veterans Memorial, Dorrian Green, the hotel/office/residential developments) have been identified and announced.

Ohio EPA is not aware of any significant public concern about this project.

As part of its State Environmental Review Process, Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) will post this Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact to its web page located at <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx>.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation because work will be in previously disturbed rights-of-way and underground.

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources because the project is in a highly urbanized area and work will occur in rights-of-way and underground.

Is cost-effective because this project is part of a larger masterplan to address aged sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure that needs to be upgraded for new development.

Is not a controversial action because the project is a necessary action to address aged infrastructure and has been publicized on the City's website.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters because infrastructure will be replaced and extended within an existing sewer/stormwater collection system without an added discharge point..

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population because most of the project addresses existing aged infrastructure.

Contact information

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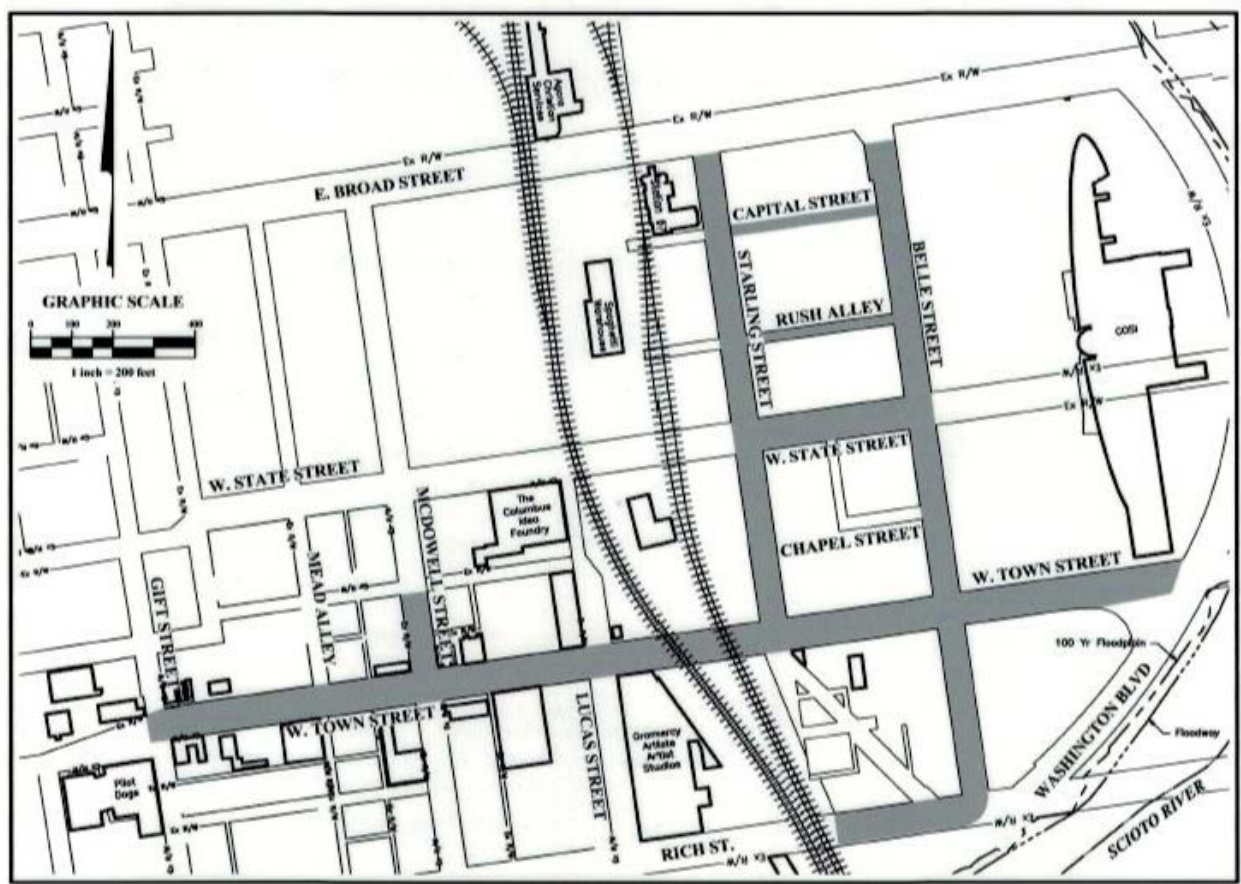


Figure 2. Project work area limits